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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,463	03/12/2004	Dennis W. Minium JR.	MS307207.01 / MSFTP586US	7693
27195 7590 02/27/2008 AMIN. TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP 24TH FLOOR, NATIONAL CITY CENTER 1900 EAST NINTH STREET CLEVELAND, OH 44114			EXAMINER ZHEN, LI B	
			ART UNIT 2194	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/799,463	Applicant(s) MINIUM ET AL.	
	Examiner Li B. Zhen	Art Unit 2194	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/2004; 11/02/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 37 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1 – 22 and 34 – 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 16 and 34 recite systems that facilitates interface of non-integrated applications comprising software only. For example, the artifact provider, artifact consumer, the link, means for exposing, means for linking and means for caching are considered to be software elements and are functional descriptive material. However, function descriptive material is nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material per se. When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized. Since claims 1, 16 and 34 do not recite the software elements as being recorded on a computer-readable medium, the system is interpreted as comprising functional descriptive material per se and non statutory. See MPEP § 2106.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 23 and 25 – 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,269,664 to Hutsch et al. [hereinafter Hutsch].**

6. As to claim 1, Hutsch teaches a system that facilitates the interface of non-integrated applications [network portal system 100; col. 7, lines 38 – 48], comprising:

an artifact provider that exposes artifacts [Universal content providers 331 make access possible to the different data sources in UCB content 332; col. 16, lines 20 – 26] of a first of the applications [local file system 544 (See FIG. 5), on an HTTP server 543, on a FTP server (not shown), in an e-mail account on IMAP server 542, or on a NFS server; col. 14, lines 60 – 67]; and

an artifact consumer that exposes a reference [web server 320 addresses UCB 113 and passes on the corresponding URI; col. 16, lines 32 – 45] of a second of the applications [client; col. 16, lines 32 – 45], which reference is a link to at least one of the artifacts held by the artifact provider [content identifier for that content; col. 63, lines 45 – 50].

7. As to claim 16, Hutsch teaches a system that facilitates the interface of non-integrated applications [network portal system 100; col. 7, lines 38 – 48], comprising:

an artifact provider that is a tool or service [Universal content providers 331 make access possible to the different data sources in UCB content 332; col. 16, lines 20 – 26] that exposes an artifact of a first of the applications [local file system 544 (See FIG. 5), on an HTTP server 543, on a FTP server (not shown), in an e-mail account on IMAP server 542, or on a NFS server; col. 14, lines 60 – 67];

an artifact consumer that is a tool or service that exposes a reference [web server 320 addresses UCB 113 and passes on the corresponding URI; col. 16, lines 32 – 45] of a second of the applications [client; col. 16, lines 32 – 45]; and

a link that is held by the artifact consumer that points to the artifact [content identifier for that content; col. 63, lines 45 – 50].

8. As to claim 23, Hutsch teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for facilitating an interface between non-integrated applications [col. 7, lines 38 – 48], the method comprising:

providing an artifact provider [Universal content providers 331; col. 16, lines 20 – 26] that communicates with a first non-integrated application [local file system 544 (See FIG. 5), on an HTTP server 543, on a FTP server (not shown), in an e-mail account on IMAP server 542, or on a NFS server; col. 14, lines 60 – 67];

exposing an artifact of the first application using the artifact provider [Universal content providers 331 make access possible to the different data sources in UCB content 332; col. 16, lines 20 – 26];

providing an artifact consumer that communicates with a second non-integrated application [local file system 544, on an HTTP server 543, on a FTP server, in an e-mail account on IMAP server 542, or on a NFS server; col. 14, lines 60 – 67];

exposing a reference of the second application using the artifact consumer [references to content providers in universal content providers 113; col. 58, line 61 – col. 59, line 12] ; and

linking the reference to the artifact with an artifact identifier [content identifier for that content; col. 63, lines 45 – 50].

9. As to claim 34, Hutsch teaches a system that facilitates the interface of non-integrated applications, comprising:

means for exposing an artifact of a first application [Universal content providers 331 make access possible to the different data sources in UCB content 332; col. 16, lines 20 – 26];

means for exposing a reference of a second application [references to content providers in universal content providers 113; col. 58, line 61 – col. 59, line 12];

means for linking the reference to the artifact with an artifact identifier [content identifier for that content; col. 63, lines 45 – 50]; and

means for caching the artifact and the artifact identifier with caching means [a caching implementation; col. 56, line 55 – col. 57, line 2].

10. As to claim 2, Hutsch teaches the link is a uniform resource identifier (URI) [facilitates access to data through a Uniform Resource Identifier; col. 16, lines 20 – 26].

11. As to claim 3, Hutsch teaches the artifact provider and the artifact consumer are application program interfaces (APIs) that interface to the respective applications [col. 54, lines 26 – 42].

12. As to claim 4, Hutsch teaches a linking component that links the reference with the corresponding artifact [adapter forms a link with universal content broker 113 and universal content broker content 332 to retrieve data; col. 14, lines 12 – 19].

13. As to claim 5, Hutsch teaches the linking component is an artifact identifier held by the artifact consumer that points to an artifact [col. 28, lines 28 – 40].

14. As to claim 6, Hutsch teaches the linking component is binary, and is associated with a referring artifact and a referenced artifact [col. 38, lines 18 – 29].

15. As to claim 7, Hutsch teaches at least one of the provider and the consumer is a tool or service [col. 40, lines 8 – 13].

16. As to claim 9, Hutsch teaches a generic artifact provider (GAP) that interfaces to a tool to facilitate storing and exposing both artifacts and artifact links [col. 27, lines 27 – 35].

17. As to claim 10, Hutsch teaches a GAP adapter that provides an interface between the GAP and a non-integrated application [adapter utilizes the same generic format independent interface to input the converted data; col. 27, lines 27 – 35].

18. As to claim 11, Hutsch teaches a cache that stores the artifacts and associated artifact links [col. 56, line 55 – col. 57, line 2].

19. As to claim 12, Hutsch teaches a user interface that facilitates presenting inter-artifact references [col. 14, lines 27 – 41].

20. As to claim 13, Hutsch teaches a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the system of claim 1 [col. 91, lines 55 – 67].

21. As to claim 14, Hutsch teaches a computer that employs the system of claim 1 [col. 91, lines 55 – 67].

22. As to claim 15, Hutsch teaches a server that employs the system of claim 1 [col. 92, lines 1 – 15].

23. As to claim 17, Hutsch teaches the link is an artifact identifier that is an immutable and uniquely constructed key [col. 63, lines 45 – 50].

24. As to claim 18, Hutsch teaches a link manager that manages a cache by updating and purging cache contents [col. 20, lines 42 – 57].

25. As to claim 19, Hutsch teaches the artifact provider and artifact consumer are at least one of loosely coupled and tightly coupled [col. 13, lines 54 – 67].

26. As to claim 20, Hutsch teaches a classifier that makes an inference based on parameters related to at least one of the artifact consumer, artifact provider, and non-integrated applications [col. 36, lines 40 – 67].

27. As to claim 21, Hutsch teaches the artifact provider creates and reveals a URI [col. 16, lines 20 – 26] for at least one of loosely-coupled server-based interactions, loosely-coupled clients, caching, and tightly-coupled interactions that support artifact-specific functions by contract with a caller [col. 13, lines 54 – 67].

Art Unit: 2194

28. As to claim 22, Hutsch teaches the artifact consumer holds the link, which link is a URI to the referenced artifact [col. 16, lines 20 – 26].

29. As to claim 25, Hutsch teaches presenting dependency information of the artifact to a user, the information including at least one of link type [col. 14, lines 12 – 19], artifact type [col. 65, lines 40 – 50], artifact name [col. 65, lines 1 – 15], and modification date [col. 38, lines 10 – 19].

30. As to claim 26, Hutsch teaches at least one of the artifact consumer and artifact provider is a web service [col. 7, lines 38 – 47].

31. As to claim 27, Hutsch teaches generating an artifact proxy that represents data stored in a non-integrated application [col. 37, lines 45 – 62].

32. As to claim 28, Hutsch teaches the artifact is representative of at least one of a source file, defect, requirement, test result, and build [col. 21, lines 26 – 35].

33. As to claim 29, Hutsch teaches the act of linking comprising a link that includes a referring URI, a referenced URI, and a link type [col. 16, lines 20 – 26].

34. As to claim 30, Hutsch teaches discovering which referring artifacts hold links to a specific referenced artifact [analyzes the URI to determine the content provider

identifier so that UCB can find the appropriate universal content provider on UCP registry 341; col. 16, lines 31 – 45].

35. As to claim 31, Hutsch teaches raising an event when the artifact is at least one of created, deleted, and changed [col. 52, lines 6 – 40].

36. As to claim 32, Hutsch teaches providing external addressability for the artifact by the artifact provider [col. 18, lines 50 – 60].

37. As to claim 33, Hutsch teaches providing a generic API that is both an artifact provider and an artifact consumer [col. 27, lines 27 – 35].

38. As to claim 35, Hutsch teaches means for synchronizing the caching means with a source of the artifact and a source of the artifact identifier [col. 37, line 63 – col. 38, line 11].

39. As to claim 36, Hutsch teaches means for defining the artifact and artifact identifier in XML [col. 39, lines 33 – 42].

40. As to claim 37, Hutsch teaches means for filtering a query [col. 15, lines 30 – 43].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2194

41. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

42. **Claims 8 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hutsch in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0215635 to Chang et al. [hereinafter Chang].**

43. As to claim 8, Hutsch does not teach the artifact provider registers an artifact type for each artifact it provides, and registers a corresponding link type that each artifact can host.

However, Chang teaches artifact provider registers an artifact type for each artifact it provides, and registers a corresponding link type that each artifact can host [metadata registry may comprise a data structure, such as one or more tables or objects that associate various metadata with requestable content registered with the content management system; p. 4, paragraph 0032].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Hutsch to incorporate the features of Chang. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have made the combination because this provides registrant with information regarding location of the repository interface, an identification template that defines a format for a

unique identifier that the repository interface uses to uniquely identify content, and parameters that are entered to identify content [p. 2, paragraph 0015 of Chang].

44. As to claim 24, Hutsch as modified teaches registering an artifact type for the artifact and registering a link type that the artifact hosts [metadata registry may comprise a data structure, such as one or more tables or objects that associate various metadata with requestable content registered with the content management system; p. 4, paragraph 0032 of Chang].

Conclusion

45. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,928,463 discloses broadband content delivery via personal content tunnel.

CONTACT INFORMATION

46. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li B. Zhen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3768. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Thomson can be reached on 571-272-3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2194

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Li B. Zhen
Primary Examiner
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